[Mr. T. K. Madhavan Nayar.]

Inspecting Officers check-weigh goods already weighed by the Customs Officer for assessment of duty and also compare the railway weight with the customs weight.

(*b*) The number of inspections conducted in 1106 by the superior officers is noted below:—

Excise Inspector	10
Assistant Excise Commissioner	9
Excise Commissioner	Nil.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): With regard to part (*b*), may I know whether there was any special reason for the Excise Commissioner not to have inspected the Customs House at least once a year?

MR. T. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): No specific reason is given. Probably he had no time and was other-wise engaged; or he considered the inspection, already made by the Assistant Excise Commissioner, sufficient.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): Are the Government aware that there was fall in the revenue of the Excise Department last year?

MR. T. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. P. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Chirayinkil*): And, should not the Excise Commissioner be more vigilant in the discharge of his duties under these circumstances?

MR. T. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR (*Ag. Secretary to Government*): There was a fall in the Excise Revenue and not Customs Revenue.

Preferential treatment of political prisoners.

110. **MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI** (*Neyyattinkara*): Will the Government be pleased to state whether they have formulated any rules or done anything else with regard to the treatment of political prisoners as distinct from other prisoners, and, if not, whether they propose framing rules therefor as in British India?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Rules 628 A to D were passed in 1924 for dealing with "Speqial Division Prisoners" in the Central Prison. The discretion of selecting prisoners for inclusion in that Division is vested in the convicting court.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*): My question is as to whether Government have formulated any special rules for the treatment of political prisoners. The answer is—"Rule 628 A to D were passed in 1924 for dealing with Special Division prisoners." I wish to know whether this Special Division as originally intended was meant for what are called political prisoners or for all classes of prisoners?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Political prisoners are also included in what are called Special Division prisoners.

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MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : On how many occasions after framing these rules, were these rules given practical effect ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I may say it was done recently in one case. I cannot recollect all the cases.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Recently, I know—

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I do not know on how many occasions the rules were made use of.

MR. N. K. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Neyyattinkara*) : Now, since the rules are not before me, may I know whether they specify the offences in respect of which discretion may be exercised, or whether the Courts may exercise discretion in all cases of offences ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : I have not got the rules with me.

PRESIDENT : He is just in the same position as you.

Provident Fund scheme for Vernacular School Teachers.

111. **MR. JOSEPH KUNJU** (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*) : Will the Government be pleased to state :

(*a*) whether they have or the Director of Public Instruction has received resolutions or petitions from the Teachers' Associations or from the All-Travancore Teachers' Conference for starting a Provident Fund Scheme for the Vernacular School Teachers ;

(*b*) if so, the action taken on them ; and

(*c*) if no action has been taken, the reason for the same ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The question of starting a Provident Fund Scheme for the Vernacular School teachers is receiving the attention of the Director of Public Instruction.

(*c*) In view of the answer to part (*b*) above, this question does not arise.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*) : പാർട്ട് ബി. ഈ സംഗതിയിൽ ഒരു തീരുമാനം ഉണ്ടാകുന്നതിനു എന്തു കാലതാമസം വേണ്ടിവരുമെന്നു പറയുവാൻ ഭയമുണ്ടാകുമോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : പണം വളരെയുള്ളതുകൊണ്ടു ഇതു കുറെ അധികം ആലോചിക്കേണ്ട ഒരു സംഗതിയാണു.

MR. JOSEPH KUNJU (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*) : ഏകദേശമായിട്ടെങ്കിലും പറയാമോ?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*) : ഇപ്പോൾ പറയുവാൻ നിവൃത്തിയില്ല.

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